

USU Medical PDA Initiative—Fast Facts

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The current version of this material is available on the web at: <http://cim.usuhs.mil/pda/>

Use of personal digital assistants (PDA) has accelerated recently and roughly half of physicians surveyed at one hospital already own one (Ho W. L., Forman J., Kannry J. **Portable Digital Assistant Use in a Medicine Teaching Program**. Proc AMIA Symp 2000;:1031). In this study the primary uses of these devices were to track outpatients and as a drug reference. Rothschild and coworkers found that physicians and medical students are able to successfully incorporate PDAs into their patient care workflow. With the use of a drug information database (qRx, ePocrates), clinicians save time, improve knowledge for themselves and their patients, and possibly decrease preventable adverse drug effects (Rothschild J. M., Lee T. H., Bae T., Yamamoto R., Horsky J., Bates D.W. **Survey of Physicians' Experience Using a Handheld DrugReference Guide**. Proc AMIA Symp 2000:1125)

Initiative Goal and Objectives

The goal of the USU Medical PDA initiative is integration of this technology into the clinical setting. The objectives of the initiative are:

- ❑ Clinical encounter log collection (CWebLog)
- ❑ Clinical reference material access (5-Minute Clinical Consult and ePocrates)
- ❑ Clinical calculator availability (MedMath and others)

Your Responsibilities

You are responsible for the Tungsten PDA. This includes arranging for both warranty and out of warranty repairs. You are responsible for installing the four applications (see Software tools below). During your clinical studies you are expected to maintain the unit operational. CWebLog is one option for maintaining a log of your clinical encounters.

Initiative Tools

The tool that you will be using includes the TungstenTME handheld computer. The key features of this handheld include:

- ❑ PalmOS 5.2.1
- ❑ Color Display
- ❑ Rechargeable battery
- ❑ 32MB of SDRAM
- ❑ SD / MMC Slot

Software tools that you will be using include:

- ❑ 5-Minute Clinical Consult
requires code and installation
- ❑ MedMath* – medical calculator

- ❑ CWebLog (3rd yr experiences)
ePocrates* – clinical drug database
requires registration and installation
- ❑ iSilo* or TealDoc* - text readers

*You may download from the Internet and are part of the CD-ROM included with this Fast Facts document.

What You Need

Before you Begin

- ❑ Is your computer appropriate? Windows 98/Me/NT/2000/XP or MacOS 9 or newer.
- ❑ Do you have a connection to the Internet (LAN or modem)?
- ❑ You need to identify an available USB port on your personal computer

Software Installation

Installing 5-Minute Clinical Consult requires a coupon code that was distributed as a separate document).

ePocrates both require registration at their sites and are somewhat large files to download over a modem. Both are on the USU PDA Initiative CD-ROM (Oct 2003). The CD-ROM includes a number of applications for the Palm and an introduction to clinical use of your PDA by an Air Force pediatrician that is an adjunct faculty member of BID.

The MedMath medical calculator and iSilo document reader are on this CD-ROM.

What's Next?

- ❑ An optional, voluntary, introduction to installing the HotSync cradle and Palm Desktop
- ❑ FastFacts for installation of ePocrates
- ❑ Optional, voluntary, introductions to installing each of the software packages related to the USU Medical PDA initiative.

REVISION HISTORY

12/13/2000	Corrected typos
9/26/2001	Update
8/16/2002	Update
3/22/2004	Update
7/28/2004	Update

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